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~~CENTRAL~~ INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 AUG 1949

**SUBJECT**

## Soviet Troops

25X1

NO. OF PAGES 33

25X1

## PLACE

ACQUIRED

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT  
REPORT ☐

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1. Except for those in the Karelian Isthmus, the troops mentioned in this report belong to the Army and not to the MVD.

## 2. Petsamo Region

- a. Three Soviet cargo boats coming from Murmansk and registering from 2,500 to 3,000 tons arrived at the port of Liinahamari (69°38'N-31°18'E) on 16 January 1949; on 19 January 1949, two other cargo boats of the same tonnage, also coming from Murmansk, arrived at Trifona (a little more to the interior of the Petsamo fjord).
- b. These cargoboats brought troops and materiel, the unloading of which lasted until 22 January 1949. These troops appeared to be two infantry regiments. Among the materiel which was unloaded were 16 anti-tank guns.
- c. After disembarking, these units moved toward the south. Some units traveled by foot; others were transported by a convoy of trucks which had come by road from Murmansk and which already carried a detachment of 600 men. All these troops passed by Kolosjoki near Salmijarvi (69°26'N-30°37'E), whence they continued their move to the south by way of the Petsamo-Ivalo road.
- d. At least by the end of January, two convoys of trucks brought Soviet troops to the Finnish frontier over the Petsamo-Ivalo road. One convoy of 22 trucks unloaded a detachment of one battalion near Kaakkajarvi, at the crossroads of this road and the branch going to the central electric plant of Yaniskoski. Another detachment of two companies was brought farther south in the region of Kosotopja, northeast of Virtanenemi (68°53'N-28°29'E).
- e. All these troops are billeted in old shelters. No heavy armament has been observed. According to unverified information, these units belong to the 306th Infantry Regiment.

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- f. Detachments of infantry have also been observed along the frontier to the east of Ivalo (68°38'N-27°33'E), near the road skirting Luttojoki.
- g. During the second half of January 1949, the air units stationed at the field at Nautsi (69°00'N-29°03'E) were reinforced by about 6 two-engine bombers and 7 pursuit planes of a type resembling the YAK-1.

3. Salla-Kandalaksha Region

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during January, the units stationed until then at Alakurtti (66°57'N-30°19'E) had been brought nearer the frontier to Kairala (66°56'N-29°38'E). They had been replaced at Alakurtti by units coming from Kandalaksha (67°09'N-32°26'E).

- c. The units which came from Alakurtti to Kairala were probably the 156th and 172nd Infantry Regiments, both belonging to the 82nd Infantry Division. It is not known whether or not the general staff of the division also came to Kairala.

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d.

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- e. It has been learned that one of the two artillery regiments at Salla (approximately 67°N-29°E) is the 32nd howitzer regiment, commanded by Colonel Bugayev (or Budayev).

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a great deal of work because this section of the road had not been cleared since the beginning of the current winter.

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it was

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a general measure, carrying out an order to clear all main roads, although the section in question serves no regular traffic, it was necessary to clear it to permit the meetings of the Soviet and Finnish commanders of the frontier sector, since travel by ski is difficult.

g.

4. Murmansk Region

- a. During January 1949, a great amount of military traffic was reported in Murmansk (68°58'N-33°05'E); during the day, numerous units and auto convoys circulated in the streets, and in the evening, the restaurants and cafes near the port were full of soldiers.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R003000450009-4

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- b. The Institute of Maritime Navigation, which has four floors, was occupied by an artillery detachment and an automobile unit.
- c. The general staff of the 16th Army is stationed at Murmansk. Kola, to the south of Murmansk, houses a division general staff.
- d. The airplanes stationed at Vayenga field (69°05'N-33°27'E) have been reinforced, but certain units have left this field in the direction of Petsamo.

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6. Karelian Isthmus

- a. A battalion of frontier guards is stationed at each of the following localities: Antrea (60°54'N-29°10'E), Hiitola (61°13'N-29°45'E), Elisenvara (61°24'N-29°30'E), and Matkaselka (61°58'N-30°34'E). The unit at Antrea is the 22nd Detachment of Frontier Guards; that at Hiitola is the 25th Detachment. The general staff of a frontier guard regiment is stationed at Sortavala (61°40'N-30°41'E).
- b. Army: At Jaakkima near Lahdenpohja (61°34'N-30°10'E) on Lake Ladoga there is a military camp, housing about two divisions. At Sortavala there is a battalion composed of only Karelians and Angermens, speaking Finnish.
- c. There are in all, then, on the Isthmus the two divisions at Lahdenpohja plus about one division at Viipuri (60°46'N-28°46'E).
- d. It stands out in the informant's memory that, at the end of February 1949, there was no abnormal concentration of troops in the Karelian Isthmus.\*\*
- e. A continuous line of fortifications has been constructed in Karelia between Sortavala and Janisjarvi (20 km. north of the former) in the region of Khyamekoski (61°52'N-30°55'E) and Kharlu (61°48'N-30°56'E).
- f. During the autumn of 1948, fortification work, the nature of which is not known, was carried out on the Soviet islands of Suursaari and Lavansaari in the Gulf of Finland.

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